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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - EU CONSTITUTION REFERENDA  
FALLOUT

PARIS - FRIDAY, JUNE 03, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

EU CONSTITUTION REFERENDA FALLOUT

(B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

THE CABINET CHANGES FOLLOWING DOMINIQUE DE VILLEPIN'S  
APPOINTMENT AS PRIME MINISTER DOMINATE A MAJORITY OF  
HEADLINES. LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION NOTES THAT "DE VILLEPIN  
VERSUS SARKOZY WILL BE A FIGHT TO THE DEATH." LIBERATION'S  
EDITORIAL MOCKS: "IN THE M AGE-A-TROIS THAT NOW GOVERNS OUR  
COUNTRY [CHIRAC, VILLEPIN, SARKOZY] IT IS NICOLAS SARKOZY WHO  
WEARS THE PANTS."

WEEKLY STANDARD'S EDITORIALIST CHRISTOPHER CALDWELL PENS AN OP-  
ED ENTITLED: "MR. DE VILLEPIN AS SEEN BY THE AMERICANS"  
TRANSLATED FOR LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE. "DOMINIQUE DE VILLEPIN  
IS ONE OF THE BEST-KNOWN MEMBERS OF A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT IN  
AMERICA. UNFORTUNATELY THOSE WHO REMEMBER HIM BEST ARE ABOVE  
ALL THOSE WHO CONSIDER HIM TO BE A SYMBOL OF FRENCH TREACHERY  
AND EGOISM. MR. DE VILLEPIN MAY CONTINUE TO HAVE A HAND IN  
FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY, BUT IT IS MR. CHIRAC WHO IS AT THE  
COMMANDS, GUIDED BY AN ERRONEOUS IDEA OF AMERICAN INTERESTS IN  
EUROPE."

IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO, IVAN RIOUFOL COMMENTS: "DE  
VILLEPIN'S PACIFISM AND ANTI-BUSH STANCE HAVE WON HIM, SINCE  
THE CONFLICT IN IRAQ, THE FAVOR OF A LARGE PART OF THE PUBLIC  
OPINION. BUT HE WILL HAVE TO PUT A LID ON HIS CALL FOR A  
'PLURAL' EUROPE AND THE BENEFITS THAT ISLAM COULD BRING TO IT.  
IS THIS 'OPEN-MINDEDNESS' A HARBINGER FOR THE WESTERNIZATION  
OF ISLAM OR THE ISLAMIZATION OF EUROPE? WE CANNOT TOLERATE  
THIS UNCERTAINTY."

PRIME MINISTER DE VILLEPIN'S DECISION TO NAME FORMER HEALTH  
MINISTER PHILIPPE DOUSTE-BLAZY AS THE NEW FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
MINISTER, REPLACING MICHEL BARNIER WHO IS OUSTED FROM THE  
GOVERNMENT, PROMPTS COMMENTARY IN POPULAR RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE  
PARISIEN: "DOUSTE-BLAZY'S APPOINTMENT IS GREETED WITH  
TREPIDATION BY THE EMPLOYEES OF THE MINISTRY. A NUMBER OF  
DIPLOMATS REGARD HIM AS A MINISTER 'FOR SHOW' WITH NO REAL  
COMPETENCE IN TERMS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS."

DAILIES SPECULATE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE FOLLOWING THE  
REFUSAL TO RATIFY THE EU CONSTITUTIONAL TREATY BY FRANCE AND  
THE NETHERLANDS. LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION HEADLINES: "EUROPE  
LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT," LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE: "EUROPE: ONE  
MORE STEP TOWARDS CATASTROPHE," RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO'S  
HEADLINE: "EUROPE: AFTER TWO NO'S, THE MACHINE IS OFF-KILTER"  
AND IN ITS ARTICLE LE PARISIEN CALLS THE CONSTITUTION:  
"MORIBUND." THE EDITORIAL IN LIBERATION PUTS FORWARD THAT:  
"ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE UNION HAVE DIAGNOSED THE CLINICAL  
DEATH OF THE CONSTITUTION, BUT NONE OF THEM WANT TO TAKE THE  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR SIGNING THE DEATH CERTIFICATE." (SEE PART  
C)

THE DIFFICULTIES THAT FACE TURKEY IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR EU  
MEMBERSHIP FOLLOWING THE REFERENDA RESULTS ARE OUTLINED IN LE  
FIGARO. THIERRY OBERLE WRITES FROM ANKARA: "IN ANKARA, THE  
GOVERNMENT NOTES THAT JACQUES CHIRAC'S GROWING POLITICAL  
ISOLATION IS A HANDICAP THAT WEAKENS HIS CREDIBILITY IN  
PROMOTING EU MEMBERSHIP FOR TURKEY." IN A SEPARATE ARTICLE, LE  
FIGARO'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT REMARKS: "WASHINGTON IS  
CONCERNED THAT THE EU WILL SEE NEW MEMBERS AS A BURDEN,  
JEOPARDIZING THE ADHESION OF TURKEY - AMERICA'S STRATEGIC  
PARTNER WITHIN NATO."

DAILIES REPORT ON THE ASSASSINATION OF FRANCO-LEBANESE  
JOURNALIST SAMIR KASSIR WHO WAS "IN THE LINE OF SIGHT OF BOTH  
THE SYRIAN REGIME AND HEZBOLLAH" ACCORDING TO LE FIGARO.  
LIBERATION REMARKS THAT KASSIR "CONTINUALLY CROSSED THE RED  
LINE OF WHAT CAN AND CANNOT BE WRITTEN. HE ATTACKED,  
DENOUNCED, ACCUSED. HE BORE WITNESS TO THE SITUATION  
THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE ARAB WORLD."  
LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE CARRIES AN EXTENSIVE PROFILE OF AL  
QAIDA LEADER ABU AL ZARKAWI BY PATRICE CLAUDE. "ZARKAWI  
INVENTED AND SYSTEMATIZED TERROR THROUGH VIDEOS, BROADCASTING

A MULTITUDE OF SLAUGHTERS ON INTERNET. HE IS A MASTER OF CHAOS, AND SINCE JUNE 2004 IS WORTH AS MUCH AS OSSAMA BIN LADEN ON AMERICA'S MOST WANTED LIST."

PRESIDENT BUSH'S APPOINTMENT OF CHRISTOPHER COX TO REPLACE WILLIAM DONALDSON AT THE HEAD OF THE SECURITY EXCHANGE COMMISSION RECEIVES COVERAGE PRIMARILY IN THE ECONOMIC PRESS. LE MONDE CALLS DONALDSON "THE MAN WHO WAS ABLE TO RESTORE THE CREDIBILITY OF THE AMERICAN MARKET" BUT ECONOMIC LES ECHOS AND LE FIGARO'S ECONOMIC SUPPLEMENT NOTE THAT COX, "WHO IS ONE OF THEIR OWN". "IS A BETTER FRIEND TO CORPORATE AMERICA THAN DONALDSON." (LE FIGARO, LES ECHOS RESPECTIVELY)

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

EU CONSTITUTION REFERENDA FALLOUT

"FALLING APART"  
THE EDITORIAL IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION BY JEAN-MICHEL THENARD (06/03): "[PREOCCUPATION WITH]`NATIONAL INTERESTS' IS BACK AND THIS IS WHAT MOTIVATED VOTERS IN FRANCE TO VOTE `NO' IN ORDER TO DEFEND THEIR `SOCIAL MODEL' AND VOTERS IN HOLLAND TO IMITATE THE FRENCH IN ORDER TO DEFEND THEIR `IDENTITY.'" IN LUXEMBURG, CITIZENS ARE WORRIED ABOUT PRESERVING THEIR TAX HAVEN AND THE GERMANS HAVE STARTED DREAMING ABOUT THE RETURN OF THE GERMAN MARK. THESE ARE ALL SIGNS THAT CONFIRM THE WOES OF EUROPE ARE FUELING A NATIONALISTIC RETREAT AND VICE-VERSA. AS FOR THE FRANCO-GERMAN COUPLE, IT IS LEFT WITHOUT PLAYERS. BECAUSE OF THE REFERENDUM, CHIRAC HAS JUST FALLEN FLAT AND SCHROEDER MAY BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME FATE IN THE FALL. A POLITICAL EUROPE IS TRAGICALLY WITHOUT A FUTURE."

"THE DEATH OF PLAN B"  
THE UNSIGNED EDITORIAL IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE (06/03): "JUST THREE DAYS AFTER THE REFERENDUM IT HAS BECOME APPARENT THAT THERE IS NO `PLAN B' PERMITTING A RE-NEGOTIATION OF THE TEXT OF THE CONSTITUTION. EVEN IF THE UNION CONTINUES TO FUNCTION WITH THE TREATY OF NICE, THE REJECTION OF THE CONSTITUTION SHATTERS THE POLITICAL MOMENTUM [OF EUROPE] THAT WAS ALREADY SINGULARLY LACKING IN DYNAMISM."

"WASHINGTON WORRIES OVER A DISUNITED EUROPE"  
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT FOR RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO, PHILIPPE GELIE, EDITORIALIZES (06/03): "THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WAS SLOW TO REACT, AS MUCH BECAUSE OF A LACK OF INTEREST AS A DESIRE FOR DIPLOMATIC PRUDENCE, BUT THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN EUROPE HAS STARTED TO BE A SUBJECT OF CONCERN IN WASHINGTON WHICH UNDERSCORES, A CONTRARIO, THE IMPORTANCE OF THE U.S.'S PARTNERSHIP WITH EUROPE ON THE WORLD SCENE." WOLFF